



## Storm Damage Repair and Clean Up Tips

Over the summer, severe weather events such as thunder storms, tornados and flash flooding can sweep through our area, damaging homes and property. When looking for someone to make emergency home repairs or to remove trees or debris, keep these tips in mind:

- **Check with your insurance company first.** The company may require that you use specific contractors, or offer recommendations. Also ask about the extent of your coverage. For example, your insurance may cover the cost of replacing only damaged sections of siding and roofing materials. If you want the surrounding area to match, you would need to pay for replacing the non-damaged areas.
- **Make sure your contractor is properly licensed.** Home improvement contractors and tree care services must be licensed. To verify a contractor's license, contact: the Maryland Home Improvement Commission at 410-333-6301 or at [www.dllr.state.md.us](http://www.dllr.state.md.us). Verify a tree services license by calling the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8511 or at [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov).
- **Be on the lookout for traveling door-to-door con artists.** They may offer low prices but never deliver. All door-to-door solicitors must be registered and carry an ID card issued by the Office of Consumer Protection. Do not do business with an unregistered solicitor.
- **Take your time and comparison shop before signing a contract.** Contracts should be specific about materials and brands, and start and completion dates. Make sure all verbal promises are included in the contract. Door-to-door sales contracts must also include a 3-day right of cancellation.
- **Do not obtain any County building permits yourself.** Contractors are required by law to obtain all permits.

**For more information on this and other consumer topics,  
contact the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection at  
[www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer)  
or call 410-313-6420**

To obtain this factsheet in an alternative format, please contact the Office of Consumer Protection at 410-313-6420 (voice/relay) or email [consumer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:consumer@howardcountymd.gov)